

### REMARKS


Applicant has not received a signed copy of the PTO-1449, filed on January 30, 2004. The PTO-1449 was filed as required by CFR 1.97(c), and contained the statement required by CFR 1.97(e)(1). "Once the minimum requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 37 CFR 1.98 are met, the examiner has an obligation to consider the information." (MPEP 609, second-to-last full paragraph). Thus, Applicant is entitled to have the PTO-1449 considered. A signed copy of the PTO-1449 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, entry and allowance of the amendments presented by this amendment is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,  
HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

Dated: May 17, 2006

  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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